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. . . CONSTITUTION . . .  
OF THE  
**Oklahoma Historical Society.**

**Incorporated Jan. 21, 1895.**



I. This association shall be styled the OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The object of the Society shall be to collect, embody, arrange and preserve books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary, and other materials illustrative of the history of Oklahoma in particular, and of the country in general; to procure from the early settlers narratives of the events relative to the early settlement of Oklahoma, and of the early explorations, the Indian occupancy, opening and immigration to the Territory and the West; to gather all information calculated to exhibit faithfully the antiquities, and the past and present resources of the commonwealth, and to take steps to promote the study of history by lectures and other available means.

II. This Society shall consist of active, life, honorary and corresponding members, who may be chosen by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, except at their meeting next preceding the annual meeting of the Society: the active members to consist of citizens of the commonwealth, by the payment of one dollar annually; the life members by the payment at any one time of ten dollars; the honorary and corresponding members, who shall be exempt from

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fee and taxation, shall be chosen from persons in any part of the world, distinguished for their literary or scientific attainments, and known especially as friends and promoters of history; editors and publishers of newspapers and periodicals who contribute the regular issues of the same to the collections of the Society, shall be considered active members of the Society during the continuance of such contribution.

III. There shall be a Board of Directors of the Society, to consist of twenty-five members, who shall be elected from among members of the Society; or, if any person be elected who shall not at the time be a member of the Society, he shall become such by the payment of the annual membership fee of one dollar; and he shall then become qualified to act as a member of the Board of Directors upon taking the oath of office as such. Any person elected a member of the Board of Directors who shall fail to qualify within sixty days after being notified of his election, shall be deemed to have declined the office, and the same shall thereby be considered vacant. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors, or in any office of the Society, may be filled by the Board of Directors at any meeting subsequent to the occurring thereof. Any number not less than five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No member of the Board of Directors, or other officer, except the Custodian, shall receive pay for any of the ordinary duties of his office.

IV. The elective offices of the Society shall consist of a President and two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, Custodian, Treasurer. The President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer shall hold their offices for a term of one year, and until their successors are chosen; said officers to be chosen by ballot of the Society, the election to be made at the annual meeting of the Society, and their terms of office shall begin at the date of their election and qualification in office. The Secretary and Custodian shall hold their offices for a term of two years, and until their successors are chosen. And, in addition to these officers, all donations of money or property (if accepted by the Board of Directors) to the amount or value of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donors life-directors of the Society during their natural lives; but such life-directors shall never exceed in number the regularly elected directors; and all moneys from life-directorships or from donations or bequests, unless especially directed otherwise by such life-directors, donors, or deviseurs, shall be invested to the best advantage, and the accruing interest be used and shall be employed in such manner for the benefit of the Society as the Board of Directors may direct.

V. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, on the first Saturday in June; and those members not less than ten who meet at any annual or special meeting of the Society upon the call of the Board of Directors, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

VI. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents or in their absence any member of the Society selected on the occasion, shall preside at the annual meeting or any special meeting of the society. Such presiding officer shall preserve order, regulate the order of proceedings, give a casting vote whenever the same is required, and countersign all warrants drawn by the Secretary.

VII. The Secretary shall preserve a full and correct record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society, to be entered on his book in chronological order. These records shall always be open for the inspection of any member of the Society. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, shall preserve for the Society the official communications addressed to him and keep copies of official letters written by him; he shall have charge of the seal; he shall collect or cause to be collected moneys due to the Society and pay the same to the Treasurer; he shall give notice of the meetings of the Society; he shall edit and supervise, under direction of the Publication Committee, the publications of the Society, and to prepare or cause to be prepared and published, a bi-ennial report of the work and condition of the Society.

VIII. The Custodian shall have charge of the books, manuscripts, and other collections of the Society; he shall keep a catalogue of the same, together with all additions made during his official term; in case of donation, he shall specify in his record the name of the book, manuscript, or article donated with the name of the donor and date of the gift; he shall make an annual report of the condition of the library; he shall keep and cause to be suitably bound such papers as he shall deem fit, out of funds not otherwise expended; he shall direct the literary exchanges; he shall report to all calls made upon him touching the affairs of his office by the Secretary of the Society, his work to be under the general supervision of the Secretary.

IX. The Treasurer shall receive and have charge of all dues, appropriations, donations and bequests of moneys, and all funds whatsoever of the Society, and pay such sums as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct, on the warrant of the President, countersigned by the Secretary; and

he shall make an annual report of the pecuniary transactions of the Society, and also a statement of the funds and property of the Society, at any special or stated meeting when thereto required.

X. The Custodian and Treasurer shall give satisfactory bonds, in such sums as the Board of Directors may deem proper, for the faithful performance of their respective duties, and for the faithful preservation of property of every kind belonging to the Society; and such bonds shall be filed among the papers of the Society.

XI. The Directors shall elect their own officers. The Directors shall supervise and direct the financial and business concerns of the Society; may augment the library, cabinet, and gallery, by purchase or otherwise; may make arrangements for a single lecture or a course of lectures, for promoting historic knowledge, and increasing the pecuniary resources of the Association. They shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in their number; they shall audit and adjust all accounts of the Society; they may call special meetings when necessary, appoint the annual orator, make suitable arrangements for the delivery of the annual address, use their discretion as to the publication of any communications, collections, transactions, annual or other addresses, or other written matters of the Society; and they shall make a full report of their transactions to the Secretary, accompanied by such suggestions as may seem to them appropriate and worthy of attention. They may appoint an Executive Committee from their own number, to perform such duties as may be prescribed for such committee.

XII. The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause the bills for the annual dues of active members to be made out and sent to the addresses of such members on or before the first day of June of each year, with a copy of this article, and if such amount is not paid to the Treasurer of this society by the first day of December following, of said year, those members in arrears shall be deemed to have forfeited their membership and their names shall be stricken from the roll of the members. The term of annual memberships to date from and after the first Saturday in June.

XIII. The Board of Directors may adopt By-Laws for their own government and guidance, not inconsistent with this constitution.

XIV. This Constitution and By-Laws shall not be amended save at the annual meeting of the Society, and then only when the proposed amendment shall have been reduced to writing, and entered on the minutes of the Society, at least

one month previous to a vote being taken on the same, *and provided also* that a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the members present shall concur in the adoption of the amendment or amendments proposed.

## By-Laws.

I. The Board of Directors shall audit all accounts presented against the Society, and all warrants drawn upon the Treasurer shall be upon sworn vouchers, approved by a majority of the Board of Directors, there being a quorum.

II. The Board of Directors shall determine the character of the published reports of the Society, and shall decide what papers from its transactions and collections the biennial report shall contain; shall provide for the annual address; shall take such action as may be deemed advisable in reference to the delivery from time to time of lectures and addresses on historical subjects at the University or elsewhere; shall take such action as the interests of the Society shall from time to time demand in relation to providing and furnishing suitable rooms for its collections, and shall consult with the Secretary and Custodian and with them decide upon the purchasing of books to augment the Society's library.

III. At or before the commencement of each fiscal year the Board of Directors shall examine and audit the accounts of the Treasurer; and at the annual meeting they shall make a written report to the Society.

IV. There shall be a Committee on Legislation to consist of five members; and it shall be the duty of the committee, annually, to confer with the members and committees of the legislature, and present for their consideration and action the matters for legislation which the Board of Directors shall recommend.

V. There shall be a Committee on Nominations to consist of five members; it shall be the duty of the committee, annually, at some time previous to the annual meeting of the Society, to make a selection of persons whom they may deem proper to recommend for members of the Board of Directors, and shall present the same for the action of the Society at the annual meeting.

VI. The Custodian shall be paid a salary of . . . . . by warrant on the Treasurer of the Society, drawn by the Secretary, and countersigned by the President, out of any appropriations made by the Legislature for the benefit of the Society.

VII. That a two thirds majority of the Directors present shall be required to elect a candidate for membership.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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